## For the Northern District of California

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WILLIE WE	EAVER,	
	Plaintiff,	No. C 07-01206 JW (PR)
VS.	)	ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
REYNOSO,	)	
	Defendant.	

Plaintiff, a California inmate, has filed a <u>pro se</u> civil rights complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. He has not paid the filing fee and appears to be ineligible for pauper status. Accordingly, this suit is subject to dismissal for the reasons set forth below.

The Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1995 ("PLRA") was enacted, and became effective, on April 26, 1996. It provides that a prisoner may not bring a civil action in forma pauperis under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 "if the prisoner has, on 3 or more prior occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it is

Order to Show Cause P:\PRO-SE\SJ.JW\CR.07\Weaver01206\_osc1915.wpd 1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under imminent danger of serious physical injury." 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). Section 1915(g) requires that this court consider prisoner actions dismissed before, as well as after, the statute's 1996 enactment. Tierney v. Kupers, 128 F.3d 1310, 1311-12 (9th Cir. 1997).

For purposes of a dismissal that may be counted under § 1915(g), the phrase "fails to state a claim on which relief may be granted" parallels the language of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) and carries the same interpretation, the word "frivolous" refers to a case that is "of little weight or importance: having no basis in law or fact," and the word "malicious" refers to a case "failed with the 'intention or desire to harm another.'" Andrews v. King, 398 F.3d 1113, 1121 (9th Cir. 2005) (citation omitted). Only cases within one of these three categories can be counted as strikes for § 1915(g) purposes. See id. Dismissal of an action under § 1915(g) should only occur when, "after careful evaluation of the order dismissing an [earlier] action, and other relevant information, the district court determines that the action was dismissed because it was frivolous, malicious or failed to state a claim." Id.

Andrews requires that the prisoner be given notice of the potential applicability of § 1915(g), by either the district court or the defendants, but also requires the prisoner to bear the ultimate burden of persuasion that § 1915(g) does not bar pauper status for him. <u>Id. Andrews</u> implicitly allows the court to sua sponte raise the § 1915(g) problem, but requires the court to notify the prisoner of the earlier dismissals it considers to support a § 1915(g) dismissal and allow the prisoner an opportunity to be heard on the matter before dismissing the action. See id. at 1120. A dismissal under § 1915(g) means that a prisoner cannot proceed with his action as a pauper under § 1915(g), but he still may pursue his claims if he pays the full filing fee at the outset of the action.

For the Northern District of California

A review of the dismissal orders in plaintiff's prior prisoner actions reveals		
that plaintiff has had at least three such cases dismissed on the grounds that they		
were frivolous, malicious, or failed to state a claim upon which relief may be		
granted. Plaintiff is now given notice that the court believes the following		
dismissals may be counted as dismissals for purposes of § 1915(g): (1) Weaver v.		
Pelican Bay State Prison, No. C 04-3077 JW (PR) (N.D. Cal. May 18, 2005) (civil		
rights action dismissed for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted)		
(2) Weaver v. Nimrod, No. C 04-3154 JW (PR) (N.D. Cal. Dec. 14, 2004) (same);		
(3) Weaver v. Pelican Bay State Prison Mail Room, No. C 04-4784 JW (PR) (N.D.		
Cal. Jan. 5, 2005) (same); (4) Weaver v. Daniel, No. C 05-1373 JW (PR) (N.D. Cal.		
May 9, 2005) (same); and (5) Weaver v. Monterio, et al., No. C 05-0166 RSWL		
(FMO) (C.D. Cal. Nov. 21, 2005) (same). Plaintiff therefore may proceed <u>in forma</u>		
pauperis only if he is seeking relief from a danger of serious physical injury which is		
"imminent" at the time of filing. <u>See Abdul-Akbar v. McKelvie</u> , 239 F.3d 307, 312		
(3d Cir. 2001) (en banc); Medberry v. Butler, 185 F.3d 1189, 1192-93 (11th Cir.		
1999); Ashley v. Dilworth, 147 F.3d 715, 717 (8th Cir. 1998); Banos v. O'Guin, 144		
F.3d 883, 885 (5th Cir. 1998).		

In light of these dismissals, and because plaintiff does not appear to be under imminent danger of serious physical injury, the court now orders plaintiff to SHOW CAUSE why this action should not be dismissed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). Plaintiff's response to this order to show cause is due no later than July 15, 2007. The response must clearly be labeled "RESPONSE TO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE."

Although the court has listed five dismissals, only three prior dismissals need to qualify under § 1915(g). In the alternative to showing cause why this action should not be dismissed, plaintiff may avoid dismissal by paying the full filing fee by the deadline.

## For the Northern District of California

FAILURE TO FILE A RESPONSE BY JULY 15, 2007 OR FAILURE
TO PAY THE FULL FILING FEE WILL RESULT IN THE DISMISSAL OF
THIS ACTION WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO PLAINTIFF.

DATED: <u>June 11, 2007</u>

JAMES WARE United States District Judge